

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A drug dispenser comprising a drug case for containing a plurality of drug packages stacked in a vertical direction, each of the plurality of drug packages being a rectangular package having a flange at an upper side of the package, and a pushing mechanism for pushing out the lowermost drug package in a horizontal direction, wherein a guide member is provided fixedly on an inner surface of a side wall of the drug case separately from the pushing mechanism for supporting and guiding the flange of the second drug package when the lowermost drug package is being pushed out, the guide member being provided in a pushing direction of the pushing mechanism.

2. (Previously Amended) The drug dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the guide member is provided on at least one side of the two sides of the pushing direction.

3. (Previously Amended) The drug dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the guide member is extended toward a downstream side of the pushing direction.

4. (Previously Amended) The drug dispenser of Claim 1, wherein the guide member supports and guides the flange of the drug package on an upstream side of the pushing direction.

5. (Currently Amended) A dispenser for dispensing drugs contained in a package having an upper flange, said dispenser comprising:

an upper case for containing a plurality of the packages stacked in a vertical direction;
a lower case connected to a lower end of said upper case;
a pushing mechanism, disposed in said lower case, for pushing out and dispensing the lowermost package in a horizontal pushing direction; and
at least one guide member fixedly disposed on an inner sidewall of said lower case for supporting and guiding the flange of the second lowermost package when the lowermost package is pushed out by said pushing mechanism, said guide member being fixed on said inner sidewall so as to be immovable and disposed~~provided~~ above said pushing mechanism.

6. (Previously Amended) The dispenser of claim 5, wherein said pushing mechanism comprises two rails, a screw disposed below and extending along the rails, and a pushing claw adapted to be driven in a forward direction and in a reverse direction upon rotation of the screw.

7. (Previously Amended) The dispenser as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one guide member comprises a pair of guide members disposed on opposite side walls of said lower case.

8. (Currently Amended) The dispenser as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one guide member comprises a pair of guide members disposed on opposite side walls of said lower case, and said guide members protrude from the side walls of said lower case and are disposed above said rails so that a bottom surface of the lowermost package will not contact the rails when supported in a horizontal position by said guide members.

9. (Previously Presented) The dispenser as claimed in claim 8, wherein said guide members function to support the flange of the second lowermost drug package when an upstream end of the second lowermost package, with respect to the pushing direction, drops due to the lowermost package being pushed out by said pushing mechanism.

10. (New) The dispenser of claim 6, wherein said pushing claw is normally disposed in a vertical orientation and is adapted to be moved to a horizontal orientation when driven in the reverse direction.